Category	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Public Financial Institutions	21,961.18
Public Account	26,559.94
TOTAL:	135,370.08

(c) Total revenue generated from investment during last three years are as under (Rs. in Crores):-

	EPF	Pension	EDLI Fund
2001-02	5673.42	2060.68	49.57
2002-03	5859.65	2419.73	64.47
2003-04	5947.61	2810.16	77.31

Availability of trained and skilled Labour

†377. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of skilled and trained labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the products of the country are costlier than that of European countries due to lack of skill and training;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(e) the time-bound targeted scheme of Government to enhance availability of skilled and trained labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No Sir, however the skill level of the workers require upgradation.

(b) Government is aware of the requirement of upgradation of skill of the workers with a view to be competitive in the present labour market. Accordingly, various skill training measures including testing and certifi-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

cation of skill of workers obtained through informal means have been taken.

(c) and (d) Labour costs are only one part of the inputs of a product and generally labour costs in India are considered to be lower than in Europe. Authenticated item wise data for comparing the costs of Indian products *viz a viz* European products are not available.

(e) Government has taken up the following schemes to enhance skill level of workers:

1. Upgradation of 100 existing ITI's for providing higher skilled labour force.
2. Establishment of New ITI's and strengthening/modernization of existing ITI's in the North Eastern States including Sikkim.
3. Modernization and strengthening of the Craftsmen Training Scheme in the State of J&K.
4. Test & certify the skill obtained by the labour force informally.

Companies not contributing towards EPF

†378. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of companies not contributing to Employees Provident Fund Organisation in the country was about 2000 as on November, 2004;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the extent of amount not contributed by the said date; and

(c) the number of public sectors and Non-Government sector companies separately and the steps taken by Government to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.